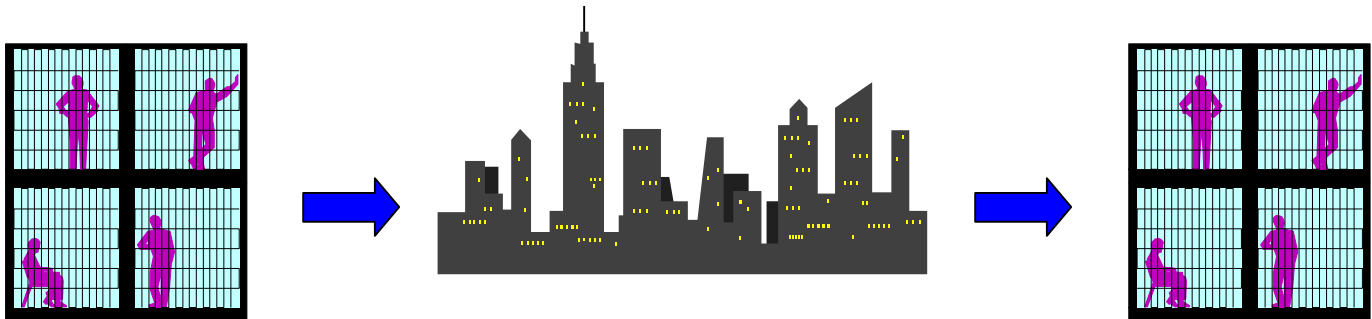


# Kentucky Department of Corrections

## Recidivism 1999-2000



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Commissioner

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## **RECIDIVISM DEFINED**

Recidivism, by Kentucky's definition, is an individual's return to the institutional custody of the Department of Corrections within two years of release from a state institution or contract facility by parole, shock probation, or completion of sentence.

Individuals are returned to custody as (1) technical violators or as (2) violators with new sentences.

Due to the limitations of the Department of Corrections' database, persons originally convicted of felonies for which they are placed on probation and felons convicted in other states or in the federal system are not included.

## **NOTES**

- 1. Type of offense is based on most serious type of crime listed in record.**
- 2. Violent offense includes such offenses as Murder, Manslaughter, Assault, Wanton Endangerment, Kidnapping, Robbery, etc., and may be more inclusive than statutory definitions for purposes of statistical categories.**
- 3. Sex offense includes such offenses as Rape, Sodomy, Sexual Abuse, Incest, etc., and may be more inclusive than statutory definitions for purposes of statistical categories.**
- 4. Drug offense includes such offenses as Trafficking in Controlled Substance, Possession of Controlled Substance, offenses involving Marijuana, offenses involving Anhydrous Ammonia, etc.**
- 5. Weapon offense includes such offenses as Possession Firearm by convicted felon, Possession of handgun by minor, Unlawfully possess weapon on school property, etc.**
- 6. Property offense includes such offenses as Theft, Burglary, Receiving Stolen Property, Forgery, etc.**
- 7. Other offense includes such offense as Escape, Promote prostitution, DUI, etc.**
- 8. Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding.**
- 9. CD – Class D Program.**
- 11. CM – Contract Medium.**
- 12. CI – Controlled Intake.**

## **RECIDIVISM IN KENTUCKY 1999-2000 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Seven thousand five hundred seventy nine (7,579) inmates were released in 2000 from adult institutions in Kentucky. Two thousand eighty one (2,081) or 27.5% of that number returned to prison within two years.

The data indicates the following:

- ? The overall recidivism rate has gone from a low of 27.2% for those released in 1985 to a high of 34.7% for those released in 1994, decreasing to 27.5% for those released in 2000.
- ? Recidivism is highest among violent offenders, however the rate for drug offenders is climbing rapidly.
- ? Inmates who were supervised after release returned at a much greater rate than those who were released by final discharge. (i.e., without additional supervision by a parole officer.)
- ? Inmates were more likely to return to prison within the first year following release than the second year.
- ? Young people under the age of 30 returned at a higher rate than any group over that age, with those under 21 returning at the highest rate and those over 50 at the lowest rate.
- ? Males returned to prison more often than females.
- ? Higher percentage of black inmates recidivated than white.
- ? Inmates released from maximum security institutions returned at a higher rate than those released from any other type of institution.

## PROFILE OF RELEASES

At the end of 1999, Kentucky was confining 15,317 convicted felons.

By the end of 2000 that number had decreased slightly to 15,308. They were divided into the following types of facilities.

**TABLE 1: Population By Security Level**

	1999	2000
Maximum Security Institutions	821	802
Medium Security Institutions	8454	8789
Minimum Security Institutions	1850	1592
Community Centers/Halfway Houses	809	884
Local Jails (CI, CD & CM)	3383	3241
Total	15317	15308

7,578 inmates were released in 1999; and 7,579 in 2000. The number of inmates released from local jails has increased significantly with the growing population of the Class D Program.

**TABLE 2: Inmates Released By Security Level**

	Maximum	Medium	Minimum	Community Centers	Local Jails	Total
1989 Released	<b>118</b>	<b>1053</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>3133</b>
1999 Released	<b>142</b>	<b>2773</b>	<b>1032</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>3109</b>	<b>7578</b>
2000 Released	<b>126</b>	<b>2648</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>3307</b>	<b>7579</b>
1989 % Released	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>33.6%</b>	<b>29.2%</b>	<b>11.4%</b>	<b>22.0%</b>	<b>100%</b>
1999 % Released	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>36.6%</b>	<b>13.6%</b>	<b>6.9%</b>	<b>41.0%</b>	<b>100%</b>
2000 % Released	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>34.9%</b>	<b>11.4%</b>	<b>8.4%</b>	<b>43.6%</b>	<b>100%</b>

From a historical perspective, the percent of inmates released from local jails increased nearly 100% from 1989 to 2000. In 1999, 872 (11.5%) of the releases were female and 6,706 (88.5%) were male. In 2000, 930 (12.3%) were female and 6,649 (87.7%) were male. In 1999, 2,867 (37.8%) of the released were black and 4,663 (61.5%) were white. In 2000 the number was 2,725 (36.0%) black and 4765 (62.9%) white. The remaining releases consisted of Hispanics, Asian, Native American or Other Races.

Inmates released were serving sentences for following types of offenses.

**TABLE 3: Inmates Released By Crime Type**

	<b>Violent</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Drug</b>	<b>Weapon</b>	<b>Property</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
1989 Released	785	142	437	0	1605	0	2969
1999 Released	1653	281	2386	107	2446	705	7578
2000 Released	1712	340	2408	92	2292	735	7579
1989 % Released	25.5%	4.6%	14.2%	0%	52.1%	0%	96%
1999 % Released	21.8%	3.7%	31.5%	1.4%	32.3%	9.3%	100%
2000 % Released	22.6%	4.5%	31.8%	1.2%	30.3%	9.7%	100%

The percent of inmates released for drug offenses has increased significantly from 14.2% of total releases in 1989 to 31.8% in 2000. At the same time the percent of property offenders released fell from 52.1% of total released to 30.3% for the same time period.

The majority of inmates were released to supervision (parole or shock probation), rather than non-supervised (serve out). The percent of non-supervised releases has grown steadily since 1989.

**TABLE 4: Inmates Released, Supevised vs. Non-Supervised**

	<b>Non-Supervised</b>	<b>Supervised</b>	<b>Total</b>
1989 Released	1006	2127	3133
1999 Released	3461	4117	7578
2000 Released	3875	3704	7579
1989 % Released	32.1%	67.9%	100%
1999 % Released	45.7%	54.3%	100%
2000 % Released	51.1%	48.9%	100%

Ages at the time of release were as follows:

**TABLE 5: Inmates Released By Age**

	<b>1999 Released</b>	<b>2000 Released</b>	<b>1999 % Released</b>	<b>2000 % Released</b>
Under 21	440	446	5.8%	5.9%
21-24	1186	1214	15.6%	16.0%
25-29	1437	1447	19.0%	19.1%
30-34	1333	1242	17.6%	16.4%
35-39	1370	1311	18.1%	17.3%
40-44	940	962	12.4%	12.7%
45-49	471	502	6.2%	6.6%
50 Over	401	455	5.3%	6.0%
Total	7578	7579	100%	100%



## **RECIDIVISM RATES FOR 1999-2000 DEMOGRAPHICS OF INMATES**

The figures in Table 6 indicate that the recidivism rate for males is approximately 5.6% higher than for females, although the rate for males is falling faster. The rate for blacks is 7.4% higher than for whites, although it too is falling. The average recidivism rate is highest for weapons offenders. The rate for all offender types, with the exception of Weapons, has decreased in the last 2 years.

**TABLE 6: Recidivism Rate By Sex/Race**

	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Total</b>
1999 Releases	872	6706	7578	2867	4663	7530
Returned	209	2050	2259	1004	1245	2249
1999 Recidivism Rate	24.0%	30.6%	29.8%	35.0%	26.7%	29.8%
2000 Releases	930	6649	7579	2725	4765	7490
Returned	214	1867	2081	847	1219	2066
2000 Recidivism	23.6%	28.1%	27.5%	31.1%	25.6%	27.5%

**TABLE 7: Recidivism Rate By Crime Type**

	<b>Violent</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Drug</b>	<b>Weapon</b>	<b>Property</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
1999 Releases	1653	281	2386	107	2446	705	7578
Returned	550	28	754	36	748	143	2259
1999 Recidivism Rate	33.3%	10.0%	31.6%	33.6%	30.6%	20.2%	29.8%
2000 Releases	1712	340	2408	92	2292	735	7579
Returned	497	29	692	32	686	145	2081
2000 Recidivism Rate	29.0%	8.5%	28.7%	34.8%	29.9%	19.8%	27.5%

# **RECIDIVISM RATES 1999-2000 BY URBAN / NON-URBAN**

Offenders in urban areas, for most categories, usually have higher recidivism rates than those offenders from non-urban areas; however it is interesting to note that Blacks in nonurban areas and Violent offenders in non-urban areas have a greater recidivism rate than those in urban areas. The largest urban/non-urban difference for 2000 was 36.8% for Weapon offenders and 17.2% for Violent offenders.

For purposes of this report, Boone, Kenton, Campbell, McCracken (Paducah), Warren (Bowling Green), Daviess (Owensboro), Jefferson, Fayette and Boyd (Ashland) are considered urban.

**TABLE 8: Recidivism Rate By Urban/Non-Urban**

	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>White</b>
1999 Urban	32.3%	26.8%	34.9%	28.3%
1999 Non-Urban	28.3%	21.1%	35.2%	25.6%
2000 Urban	34.5%	24.0%	31.0%	27.4%
2000 Non-Urban	26.6%	22.2%	31.3%	24.5%

**TABLE 9: Recidivism Rate by Urban/Non-Urban vs. Crime Type**

	<b>Violent</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Drug</b>	<b>Weapon</b>	<b>Property</b>	<b>Other</b>
1999 Urban	35.4%	10.3%	32.6%	28.6%	33.9%	20.5%
1999 Non-Urban	30.5%	9.7%	30.5%	36.9%	28.0%	19.9%
2000 Urban	21.3%	9.7%	31.2%	56.8%	38.0%	30.1%
2000 Non-Urban	38.5%	7.4%	26.4%	20.0%	23.9%	12.1%

**RECIDIVISM RATES 1999-2000 BY SUPERVISED /  
NON-SUPERVISED, AGE, CUSTODY LEVEL,  
RELEASE TIME**

Offenders under supervision (i.e., parolees), recidivated at a rate of 42.7% for 2000, 29.8% higher rate than those who served out their sentence. Most parolees are returned for technical violations not commission of a new crime. Inmates under supervision can be returned to prison for violating rules of parole, while those who serve out their sentence can only be returned to prison if they are convicted of a new felony.

Recidivism is directly linked to the age of the offender at release, the younger the offender the more likely to return to prison. Inmates under 21 who were released in 2000 returned nearly one-half of their number to prison within 2 years.

Inmates released from community based facilities were less likely to recidivate than those released from more secure institutions.

Approximately 58% of those released in 2000 returning to prison did so within the first year. The highest rate of return was between 6 months and 1 year of release.

**TABLE 10: Recidivism Rates By  
Type of Release**

	<b>Non-Supervised</b>	<b>Supervised</b>	<b>Total</b>
1999 Released	3461	4117	7578
1999 Returned	432	1827	2259
1999 % Returning	12.5%	44.4%	29.8%
2000 Released	3875	3704	7579
2000 Returned	499	1582	2081
2000 % Returning	12.9%	42.7%	27.5%

**TABLE 11: Recidivism Rate By Age at Release**

	<b>Under 21</b>	<b>21-24</b>	<b>25-29</b>	<b>30-34</b>	<b>35-39</b>	<b>40-44</b>	<b>45-49</b>	<b>50 Over</b>	<b>Total</b>
1999 Released	440	1186	1437	1333	1370	940	471	401	7578
1999 Returned	214	426	478	396	345	242	99	59	2259
1999 % Returning	48.6%	35.9%	33.3%	29.7%	25.2%	25.7%	21.0%	14.6%	29.8%
2000 Released	446	1214	1447	1242	1311	962	502	455	7579
2000 Returned	203	418	426	342	327	204	99	62	2081
2000 % Returning	45.5%	34.4%	29.4%	27.5%	24.9%	21.2%	19.7%	13.6%	27.5%

**TABLE 12: Recidivism Rate By Security Level at Release**

	Maximum	Medium	Minimum	Community	Local Jails	Total
1999 Released	142	2773	1032	522	3109	7578
Returned	63	961	351	154	729	2258
1999 % Returning	44.4%	34.7%	34.0%	29.5%	23.4%	29.7%
2000 Released	126	2648	864	634	3307	7579
Returned	46	813	289	179	754	2081
2000 % Returning	36.5%	30.7%	33.4%	28.2%	22.8%	27.5%

**TABLE 13: Return Date From Time of Release**

	6 Months	1 Year	18 Months	2 Years	Total
1999 # Released					
Returned	550	726	561	421	2258
1999 % Total Returning	24.4%	32.1%	24.8%	18.7%	100%
2000 # Released					
Returned	485	730	500	366	2081
2000 % Total Returning	23.3%	35.1%	24.0%	17.6%	100%

**RECIDIVISM RATES****Comparison of 1985 – 2000 Recidivism Rates**

As the figures below indicate, the recidivism rates for Kentucky rose from 1985 through 1988, decreased slightly from 1989 through 1992, climbing steadily for 2 years, but started decreasing in 1995.

**TABLE 14: Recidivism History**

Year	Rate
1985	27.2%
1986	29.2%
1987	30.1%
1988	32.9%
1989	30.8%
1990	30.2%
1991	29.5%
1992	29.2%
1993	33.4%
1994	34.7%
1995	33.1%
1996	34.2%
1997	31.8%
1998	31.6%
1999	29.8%
2000	27.5%

**RECIDIVISM RATES 1985 - 2000  
NEW SENTENCE/TECHNICAL VIOLATION**

A 16 year history of recidivism rates shows a rise from 1985 through 1988, a small decrease from 1989 through 1992, and a rapid rise since 1992, leveling off in 1995. The rate for Technical Violators continues over twice the rate of New Convictions.

Violations that can cause a person to become technical violator include the use of alcohol or drugs, failure to report curfew violation, possession of firearms, absconding, and failure to attend a treatment meeting or maintain employment.

**TABLE 15: Recidivism Rates By New Sentence/Technical Violation**

	New Convictions		Technical Violators	
	Number	Recidivism Rate	Number	Recidivism Rate
1985	287	10.3%	476	17.1%
1986	272	10.0%	525	19.3%
1987	247	9.1%	578	21.4%
1988	271	8.7%	760	24.3%
1989	256	8.3%	695	22.6%
1990	302	8.0%	846	22.3%
1991	310	7.4%	920	22.5%
1992	376	7.4%	1102	21.7%
1993	538	9.4%	1382	24.0%
1994	631	10.8%	1404	23.9%
1995	620	10.4%	1342	22.6%
1996	709	10.7%	1564	23.5%
1997	685	10.5%	1383	21.3%
1998	723	9.8%	1613	21.8%
1999	563	7.4%	1696	22.4%
2000	618	8.2%	1463	19.3%

## COMPARISON OF 1989 and 2000 RECIDIVISM RATE

The recidivism rate has fallen for most categories between 1989 and 2000 except for Drug offenders. The recidivism rate for drug offenders has increased by nearly 8.3% in 12 years.

**TABLE 16: Comparison of 1989 and 1998 Recidivism Rates**

	<b>1989 Rate</b>	<b>2000 Rate</b>
Females	20.2%	23.6%
Males	31.9%	28.1%

	<b>1989 Rate</b>	<b>2000 Rate</b>
Violent	34.9%	29.0%
Sex	16.9%	8.5%
Drug	20.4%	28.7%
Weapon	*	34.8%
Property	33.8%	29.9%
Other	19.1%	19.8%

	<b>1989 Rate</b>	<b>2000 Rate</b>
Blacks	36.7%	31.1%
Whites	28.4%	25.6%

\* Weapon was not a Crime Category in 1989.